

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No claim amendments are presented herein.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing a fluid, comprising:

atomizing said fluid in a supercritical fluid medium to dissolve at least one component in the fluid to be processed;

applying thermal energy to said fluid;

allowing undissolved components to settle; and

separating said dissolved components from said supercritical fluid.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein said atomization is accomplished by dynamic atomization.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of utilizing jet spray orifices during said atomization step.

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of adding sonic energy during said atomization step.

Atty. Docket No. 572.007

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied after atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied to the fluid to be processed before atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the supercritical fluid is selected from a group consisting of CO₂, N₂O, NH₃, C H₄, C₂ H₆, C₃ H₈, C₄ H₁₀, C₅ H₁₂, SF₆, Xe, CCl₂F₂, and H₂O.

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising the step of adding a modifier to enhance the solubility of the supercritical fluids.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additional comprising the step of recycling said supercritical fluid.

11. **(Withdrawn)**

12. **(Withdrawn)**

13. **(Withdrawn)**

14. **(Withdrawn)**

15. **(Withdrawn)**

16. **(Withdrawn)**

17. **(Withdrawn)**

Atty. Docket No. 572.007

18. **(Withdrawn)**

19. **(Withdrawn)**

20. **(Withdrawn)**

21. **(Withdrawn)**

22. **(Withdrawn)**

23. **(Withdrawn)**

24. **(Withdrawn)**

25. **(Withdrawn)**

26. **(Withdrawn)**